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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/622,583	10/13/2000	Edgardo Delfino Carosella	195707USOPCT	8532

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EXAMINER

CHUNDURU, SURYAPRABHA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1656

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2001

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/622,583

Applicant(s)

CAROSELLA ET AL.

Examiner

Suryaprabha Chunduru

Art Unit

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1 and 4-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-3, 14-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' response to the office action (Paper No. 11) filed on October 22, 2001 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's response to the office action (Paper No.11) is fully considered and deemed persuasive.
3. The objection for specification in the previous office action is withdrawn herein in view of applicants' amendment (Paper No. 11).
4. The rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph in the previous office action is withdrawn herein in view of the applicants' amendment (Paper No.11).
- 5 Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for claims 2-3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

New Grounds of Rejection Necessitated by Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The instant claim 3 recites "possibly" which is confusing and unclear as what the term refers to, because the recitation of the term makes the claim unclear for, whether any of the limitations which follow the term 'possibly' are required limitations or not. Therefore, the metes and bounds of the claims are unclear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-3 and 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bensussan et al. (Proc.Natl.Acad.Sci.USA., 92: 10292-10296, 1995).

Bensussan et al. teach a method for detecting membrane-bound HLA-G expression wherein Bensussan et al. disclose that the method comprises (i) removing a tumor sample (see page 10293, column 1, lines 8-14, and table 1); (ii) performing indirect immunofluorescence on the sample (see page 10293, paragraph 4); (iii) labeling the cells of the sample with antibodies for HLA-G (see page 10293, column 1, paragraph 4 and column 2, paragraph 4). Bensussan et al. further teach lysing the labeled cells and contacting the lysed cells with HLA-G antibodies and detecting the immunoprecipitates for HLA-G expression profile (see page 10294, column 1, paragraph 2). Bensussan et al. teach monoclonal antibodies of HLA-G membrane bound and soluble isoforms (see page 10294, column 1, paragraph 2); and detection of HLA-G expression (immunoprecipitates) by SDS/PAGE electrophoresis (see page 10294, column 1, paragraph 2). Thus, the disclosure of Bensussan et al. meets the limitations in the instant claims.

No claims are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suryaprabha Chunduru whose telephone number is 703-305-1004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30A.M. - 4.30P.M, Mon - Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jones can be reached on 703-308-1152. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-0294 for regular communications and - for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

^{SPE}
Suryaprabha Chunduru
December 27, 2001

Kenneth R. Horlick, Ph.D.
KENNETH R. HORLICK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1600 12/27/01